

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-3 have been cancelled, and claims 4, 6-10, 13, 15 and 16 have been amended. Thus, claims 4-16 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to make grammatical and idiomatic improvements in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In item 4 on page of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 4-16 are allowed. Accordingly, in order to expedite allowance of this application, rejected claims 1-3 have been cancelled, thereby leaving only the allowed claims 4-16.

It is noted that the allowed claims have been slightly revised so as to improve the U.S. form thereof. In particular, claims 4 and 15 have been amended to recite an "outlet fluid passage" in order to clarify the difference between the third fluid passage having the third check valve (e.g. 83) and the outlet passage (e.g. 264). Claims 4 and 15 have also been amended to change "a second fluid passage" to --said second fluid passage-- since this phrase has previous antecedent basis in each of the claims (i.e. at lines 9 and 10 of claim 4 and at line 10 of claim 15). Also, claims 10 and 16 have been amended based on the description in the first paragraph on page 8 of the original specification. Further, claims 6-9 and 13 have been amended to avoid use of the term "means" so as to ensure that the claim limitations are not construed under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph.

Thus, in view of the indication of the allowability of claims 4-16, it is submitted that the application is now clearly in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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